Annual Review 2013/2014

Dorset Community Foundation

Making connections to build stronger communities

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Daisy Ilchovska - Marketing Manager
Tracy Melling - Development Director
Leonnie Prangnell - Admin & Marketing Officer
Clare Rance - Trust Development Adviser

Cover picture: Chestnut Nursery
Back cover picture: Chesil Sailability

Contents

1 Welcome
2 Highlights
3 Overview: Grant Making
4 Our Funds 2013/14
5 Helping make Dorset better
6 Why what we do is important
8 Focus: Young Adults
10 Focus: Homelessness
11 Focus: Community Support
12 Focus: Social Isolation
14 Focus: Arts & Culture
15 Focus: Health & Wellbeing
16 Focus: Education & Training
18 Responding to Emergencies
20 Surviving Winter Appeal
22 The Dorset Fund
24 Working in Partnership
25 10 Ways to get involved

Welcome

Welcome to our 2014 Annual Review.
Last year has been one of steady progress amid some exciting new developments and at the end of the year we can look back with real satisfaction. Through our grant making we have been able to extend our community impact and engagement and strengthen our links with the voluntary sector across the county.

During the year we have had several notable successes:-

- In 2013/14 we exceeded our previous record in grant making. This year we increased our grant making to £670,000, in comparison with £420,000 in the previous year
- We achieved our Quality Accreditation kite mark which provides a 3 year validation endorsing our good practice
- We set up a new Dorset Fund which is intended to provide a focus for donors and funders who wish to support county wide specific causes
- We focused on developing our donor and supporter networks and have successfully created an Ambassadors group
- We are pleased to have secured the patronage of the new Lord Lieutenant of the county - Mr Angus Campbell
- Our Board has been expanded and strengthened
- We organised a number of events and campaigns which have been successful in raising our profile

All of the achievements above are impressive but should not serve as grounds for complacency. In order to achieve our aims to make Dorset a better place to live, it is crucial that we increase our funding base through endowments, legacies or donations. This will be our absolute priority in the coming year.

I would like to conclude by congratulating the staff on their sterling efforts this year in the face of a challenging environment. I would also like to thank my fellow Trustees, Patrons, Ambassadors, Friends and volunteers of the Foundation for their support and unstinting belief in the value of what we do, and what we stand for.

Ashley Rowlands, Chair

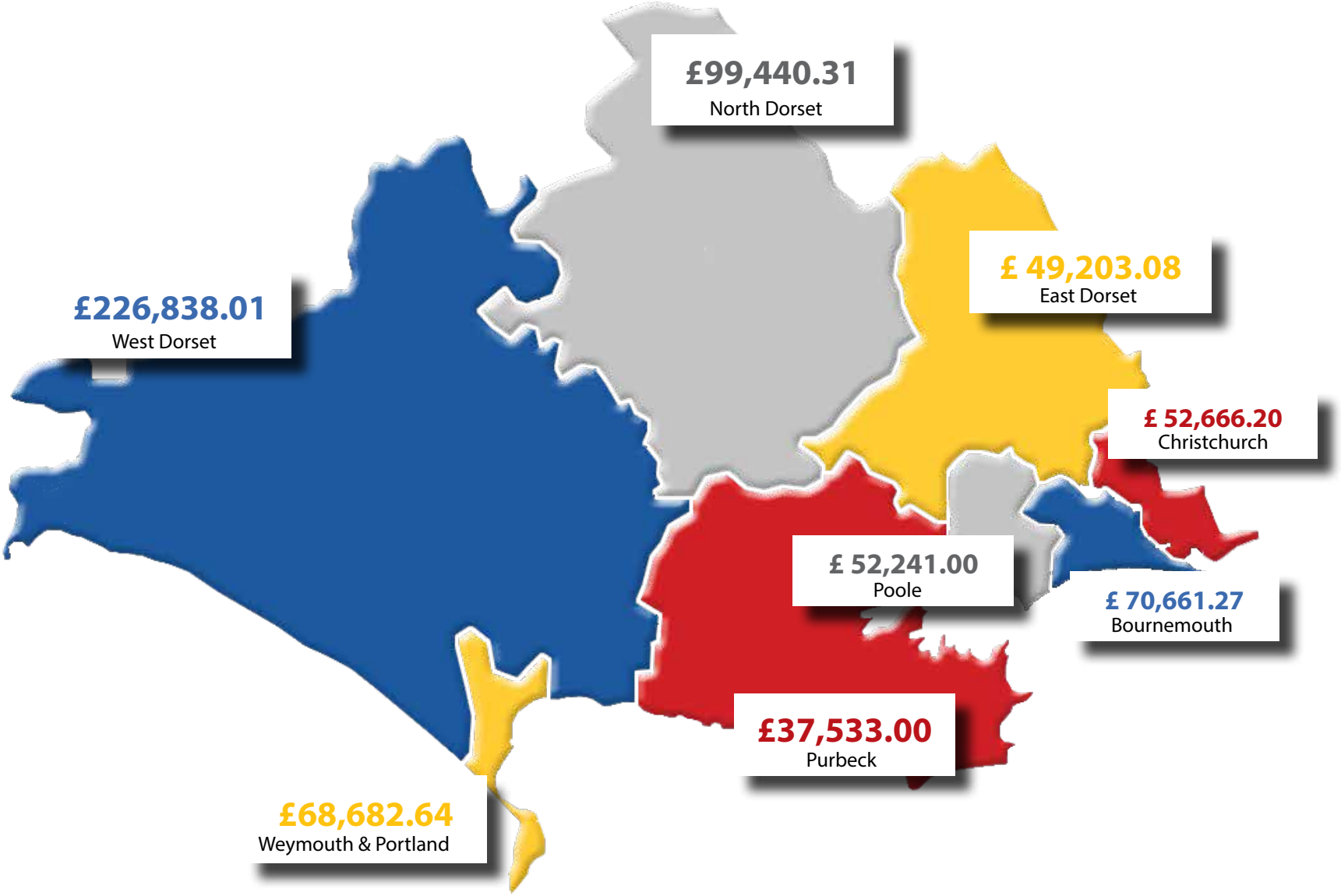
Highlights

£670,000
Awarded in grants

180
Projects have been funded

100,000+
People have benefitted from services made possible from our support

16
New ambassadors joined from across the county

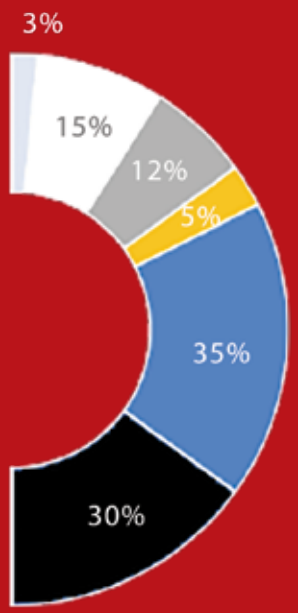


Grants Awarded by Area

* please note the figures above do not include grants distributed to individuals

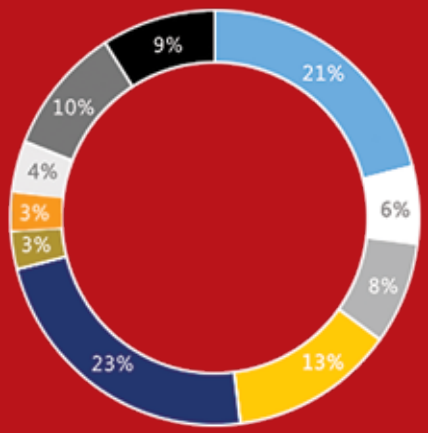
Overview

Grant Making



Grants Awarded by Age Group

- Early Years (0-4)
- Children (5-12)
- Young People (13-18)
- Young Adults (29-25)
- Adults (26-65)
- Seniors (65+)



Grants Awarded by Issue

- Community & Family Support
- Counselling/Advice/Mentoring
- Disability & Access Issues
- Arts, Culture, Education & Training
- Health & Wellbeing
- Poverty & Disadvantage
- Racial & Cultural Integration
- Environment/Rural Issues
- Social Inclusion
- Sport & Recreation

Dorset Community Foundation continued the strong funding tradition, with a range of existing and new funding opportunities to help both community groups and individuals. We awarded over £670,000 in grants to over 220 charities, community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals through our various funding streams, benefitting over 100,000 people in our county. We are continually working hard to encourage and develop new streams to deliver funding to those communities most in need. Many people in the county are still facing hardship despite the earliest signs of economic recovery, with the voluntary sector playing a key role in providing the direct aid and support they need.

As part of ongoing activity to develop our work, we are currently exploring new ways of capturing the impact individual grants are making. The research also helps us identify emerging trends that may require funding support in the future. Over the last year we have supported projects which cover a variety of issues, such as Poverty & Disadvantage, Arts & Education, Social Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing, covering all areas within the county, with beneficiaries across all age groups.

We continue to strive to offer equal coverage across the county with our grant making and there is no doubt we still have work to do. However, thanks to the commitment and generosity of donors, local authorities and other partners, we continue to make progress in closing these gaps.

Our Funds 2013/14

Endowment

Education Fund	Poole Communities Fund	Bournemouth Communities Fund
Bournemouth & Poole College Foundation	Dorset Communities Fund	Marjorie Gordon Fund
Dorset Education Trust for Children and Young People	The Tall Ships Fund	Peter and Janet Edmonds Fund
Bournemouth & Poole College Arts Prize		

Revenue

Skills & Learning Community Learning Fund 19-65+	Education Fund	Majorie Gordon Fund
Kitty's Wish Foundation	The Meggitt Fund	Bournemouth & Poole College Arts Prize
Comic Relief	The Edwards Fund	Dorset County Council Fund
Dorset Education Trust for Children and Young People	Bournemouth Communities Fund	Peter and Janet Edmonds Fund
The Tall Ships Fund	Bournemouth & Poole College Foundation	Poole Communities Fund
Dorset Communities Fund		

"We are delighted that since setting up the Meggitt Fund through the Dorset Community Foundation, £10,000 has been made available in charitable grants to projects which provide support to smaller organisations which may not be able receive assistance from elsewhere."

Philip Green, Meggitt PLC

Helping make Dorset better

If you are considering giving locally and perhaps starting a charitable trust, or if you already have one, there is a better way to make an impact.

Core Services:

- Philanthropy advice to develop a bespoke giving strategy, including needs research
- We hold and administer tailor-made charitable funds for donors, local authorities and companies
- Grant programme management, due diligence, monitoring and evaluation
- Trust transfers
- Tax efficient giving
- We can accept legacies, shares, assets and cash

A choice of fund types:

Depending on the wishes of the donor they can start their giving immediately through a revenue fund, or invest funds for future generations through an endowment fund. Alternatively, a combination revenue/endowment fund can be set up.

A range of benefits:

- Bespoke management and decision making
- You can choose to support groups or individuals
- Project visits and meetings
- Impact reports and fund investment statements
- Fundholder events and invitations to philanthropy events
- Match funding opportunities
- Cost effective

Ways to make a difference:

- Establish your own fund to support causes you care about or a specific area within Dorset which is close to your heart
- Establish an 'in memory of' fund to celebrate the life of a loved one
- Pool your giving with others and support one of the themes of The Dorset Fund – Education, Art or Neighbourhood
- Support the Foundation directly and maximise the impact we make locally

Contact Tracy Melling on 01202 292255 to discuss how your donations can make a difference.

“Setting up a fund with the Foundation has helped me reach out and help grassroots community groups and charities who are involved in causes I care about. The Foundation has the local knowledge and expertise to advise donors of where targeted support is needed. The grant monitoring and the visits have enabled me to see the impact of my donation.”

Why what we do is important

There are over 3000 charities and community groups in Dorset and most of them of them are struggling to survive and are looking for support. The main reason is that often they are partly volunteer led and do not have the time or resources to fundraise and develop their sustainability. These groups are working at grassroots level and provide vital support to local communities and yet they are often below the radar for any potential donations.

Through company or individual donor funding the Foundation supports these groups whilst at the same time fulfilling the philanthropy wishes of the fundholder - supporting groups in a particular geographical area or funding particular themes - such as education or sport initiatives.

Bee Yourself

supported by the Edwards Fund

The small volunteer led group Bee Yourself based in Poole helps severely disabled adults and their carers by involving them in artistic, crafts and music activities. These activities greatly help with their social skills and give much needed confidence and a safe non-judgemental environment.

The fundholder was greatly interested in finding out more about the group as the priority of the fund she set up with the Foundation is helping disadvantaged people through training, arts and education schemes. The Foundation arranged a visit in June 2013 where the fundholder had an opportunity to visit the beneficiaries of the project and discuss directly what she could do to help.

Subsequently, the fundholder supported two projects for the group. Additionally, the Foundation was also able to link them up with a volunteer who helped them to put together much needed organisational documents, which will help with future funding opportunities.

> Funding from Dorset Community Foundation during 2013/14 has come at crucial times in our strategic expansion plans and has helped us develop new services for people in the community who need extra support.

Amount of Funding: £6,290
Fund: Dorset Education Fund
Area: North Dorset

Focus: Young Adults

Future Roots is a social enterprise based at Rylands Farm near Sherborne in Dorset. The organisation works with around 100 people a week delivering a range of farm-based projects including vocational training and therapeutic interventions for young people and an alternative day care service for older people. Future Roots is currently in the middle of an ambitious expansion plan to a second agricultural site near Dorchester, which is known as Whitfield.

Andrew Ridgewell, staff member at Future Roots, said, "It has been another successful year on the farm and it has been wonderful to receive the ongoing support of Dorset Community Foundation.

We were thrilled to attend the launch of the Dorset Education Fund last October and the grants we were awarded from the Fund are benefiting the community as we speak. A grant for extra curricular group projects for 5 to 16 year olds is providing summer transition sessions for young people who are expected to struggle with the move from primary to secondary school.

The grant also allowed us to generate additional support from the Rotary Club of Sherborne Castles Fundraisers, so that we were able to offer the sessions to children in both the Sherborne and Sturminster Newton areas.

Funding from Dorset Community Foundation during 2013/14 has come at crucial times in our strategic expansion plans, has helped us develop new services for people in the community who need extra support and allowed us to leverage additional support from other donors."

Focus: Homelessness

> "The funding we receive through the Foundation means a great deal to us as it allows us to carry out the much needed projects which bring about fantastic outcomes."

Hope Housing Training and Support protects the vulnerable in Bournemouth by providing accommodation for single homeless adults between the ages of 18-56. They currently house 80 vulnerable clients with multiple issues including those at risk of street homelessness, ex-offenders, substance misuse, long-term unemployment and mental health issues. Not only do Hope Housing provide individuals with shelter and warmth they also offer the provision of support, counselling and accredited training to enable clients to become more positively integrated into the community.

Hope Housing received funding from The Foundation for various different projects - a 12 week counselling mentoring and support programme and starter packs for when homeless clients first arrive, as the majority of them have no belongings. Through a grant the Foundation also supported the cost of gym equipment which will enable the residents to socialise with one another and enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

Philip, a Hope Housing resident says, "When I first came here I was quite lonely, I limited myself to what I was doing and was very unsociable. I was in a dark place. Gradually I became friendly with many of the staff and residents and also found that I have a passion for working out. I now have a volunteer job working at Bournemouth YMCA as a trainee fitness instructor. I have become sociable both with everyone at Hope Housing and outside, so my confidence has improved. Everything that I have been involved with here has helped me in multiple ways - whether its confidence building, personal issues or moving on with my future."

hope
Housing, Training and Support Ltd
Reg Charity number: 1133284

Amount of Funding: £492.00
Fund: Bournemouth Communities Fund
Area: Bournemouth

Focus: Community Support

In September 2009 the Centre was placed under review for potential closure, but the community support for the facilities was so overwhelming that local residents formed the Friends of Mudeford Wood (FOMW) to safeguard the centre and surrounding facilities and took over the running of it from the Council.

The grant from the Foundation helped set up Mudeford Wood Active Kids - holiday club for children aged between four and 11 based around sports, arts and crafts. A local parent explained;

"Mudeford Wood holiday club is a fabulous community facility that provides parents a child free day in the school holidays at a reasonable cost. The club offers a range of stimulating and enticing activities that vary in physical and mental exertion that is well structured, whilst still considering individual needs. The staff are encouraging and friendly and enable the children to flourish in a happy and safe environment. My children love attending the club during holidays because they are able to socialise whilst having fun."

Amount of Funding: £7,500

Fund: Dorset County Council Fund

Area: Christchurch

> The Foundation has been a fantastic help to B Sharp and the young people we work with. We have had several grants which have helped refine and shape the way we work and most importantly; inspire, enrich and change rurally isolated children and young peoples lives through the enjoyment of making music together.

Amount of Funding: £2,500
Fund: Comic Relief
Area: West Dorset

Focus: Social Isolation

B Sharp is a registered charity based in Lyme Regis, a small coastal town of 3,500 residents where young people suffer challenges associated with living in a small rural area. These challenges include social isolation, low wages & seasonal jobs, lack of reliable transport and cultural activities that appeal to that age group.

B Sharp offers music making opportunities for children and young people by providing a safe and enjoyable environment for them to explore and develop their music and social skills, increase their confidence and be valued for their contribution individually. The regular activities include weekly workshops, instrumental and vocal ensembles, live performance events and an annual one-day open-air music festival called 'The Big Mix'. The summer of 2014 event included over 20 acts made up of over 100 young musicians and singers who performed to over 1,500 people.

The funding from the Comic Relief Fund managed by the Foundation, contributed to the costs of the stage and sound system so that young people could take part and enjoy the music festival on an annual basis. Jamie, Trainee Music Leader for B Sharp, says:

"For me, music is both a way to relax after a long day or week of school or work, but also to express inner emotions and expel negative energies. During my primary school years, I was one of those people who practiced ridiculous numbers of hours per day. When I started secondary school aged 11 near Oxford, I lost confidence in myself but B Sharp brought back this self-confidence and motivation.

I joined B Sharp when it first started in 2007/8, simply as a participant and in 2010, I became a trainee music leader. This has been the core of my friendship groups and always the highlight of my week. B Sharp is extraordinary in bringing people together and it has hugely developed my confidence as I have always had difficulties communicating with others, partly due to my stutter, but also my dyspraxia. I have found my friends through B Sharp and my voice through music. I couldn't imagine a life without B Sharp!"

Focus: Arts & Culture

Amount of Funding: £1,572

Fund: Dorset Education Fund 0-16 years

Area: East Dorset

Wimborne Community Theatre received funding from The Foundation to set up and run two after-school drama clubs for young people aged between 8-13 in Wimborne and Colehill during the summer term of 2014. The workshops were carried out across three schools, none of which have Drama embedded in their core curriculum. The project focused on the topic of World War One commemorations locally and aimed to develop new opportunities for inclusion and integration for young people educated separately in Special Educational Needs and mainstream schools whilst enabling them to learn informally out of school hours through the arts.

Tony Horitz, Drama Facilitator said, "Wimborne Community Theatre was delighted to have the opportunity to introduce our inclusive theatre practice to after-school clubs."

> *"Having the grant from the Foundation meant we were able to empower young people to learn about their local history and grow in confidence as actors."*

Focus: Health & Wellbeing

Amount of Funding: £5,250

Fund: Dorset County Council Fund

Area: Purbeck

Dorset Writers' Network works with those between the ages of 16 and 80 who suffer from disabilities and poor mental health, by bringing them together through professionally facilitated writing workshops.

The Foundation supported their year-long Pen Pals project which focuses on senior individuals who often feel very isolated. Many of those who attended the Pen Pals sessions have varying degrees of memory loss, dementia and other age-related physical impairments, so the charity decided to adapt the sessions to include activities around memorabilia and sharing personal stories.

Additionally, the carers of the elderly beneficiaries participated in the project as well creating a great opportunity for communicating, sharing and bonding in a safe and friendly environment.

Helen Pizzey, Pen Pals Co-Ordinator says, "The generous funding of £5,250 which The Dorset Writers' Network received from Dorset Community Foundation enabled us to plan a much bigger project than hitherto where we have primarily focussed on one-off events for writers or have worked with small groups in the community over a shorter period of time. Within the larger scope of the Pen Pals project, we were able to involve seniors and their carers in Purbeck in three different care or assisted-living settings and deliver tailored sessions to suit alongside building a strong team of volunteers and experienced Network members."

> *"The Foundation's partnership with us in this has given us the endorsement and confidence to plan for other such large-scale projects across all age ranges, county-wide."*

"C - Waves Diving is very grateful to The Foundation for making the project possible. With their support we have been able to bring the joys of the underwater world to so many local people, making them aware of marine conservation issues and inspiring them to continue their lifelong learning."

Amount of Funding: £4,400
Fund: Skills & Learning: Community Learning Fund 19-65+
Area: Weymouth & Portland

Focus: Education & Training

C-Waves Diving was founded as a charity in 2005 by partners Rob Hughes and Andrea Frankham-Hughes. They realised that even though there was a lot of scuba diving tourism in Weymouth, local people often missed out on the opportunity to learn to dive through lack of information and resources. They set about creating opportunities for Dorset locals to try scuba diving, engage with the underwater world and encounter their first 'Astronaut Moment' as they experienced zero gravity under the water.

The funding that C-Waves received in the summer of 2014 has been a great success. It enabled almost 90 local people aged between 19 and 66 to try scuba diving for the first time, on a 2 ½ hour course through the internationally recognised PADI discover Scuba Diving Programme. Those who participated benefitted from increased confidence in the water, rising to new challenges and making new friends.

> *"I learnt loads and gained great confidence. Didn't want to get out. Great team to help - thank you!"*

Founder Rob Hughes commented; "It's been a great summer teaching so many locals to dive through the DCF funded programme.

The response to Try Scuba Diving Sessions has been overwhelmingly positive. We hope that locals will have gained more awareness of the local marine environment, that will encourage them to take part in local beach clean ups and respect the beautiful resources that we have on our doorstep."

Responding to Emergencies

Photo Credit: Lindsey Harris - m34 photography

During the winter months of 2013/2014, many residents were forced to evacuate their homes when the unprecedented storms and floods hit Dorset, with many having spent Christmas Day searching for shelter.

Once the bad weather had subsided, a large number of individuals and families were left to pick up the damage that the weather had caused to their homes and personal belongings.

Dorset Community Foundation was amongst 10 Community Foundations from various areas of the UK to receive funding from the Office for Civil Society (OCS) to set up an emergency Flood Relief Fund. A total of £32,500 worth of grants was distributed to individuals, families and fishermen who were affected by the severe storms and flooding.

We worked successfully with the Fishermen's Mission to provide Emergency Welfare Grants and with the assistance of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, we were able to distribute £50,000 in grants to Dorset's fishermen to replace equipment which had been lost or damaged in the storms.

> During the spell of bad weather there were three months with no income, a further three months searching for lost equipment and then the realisation of how much it is going to cost to get back to work. It meant a lot to receive the grant from The Foundation, I was completely shocked and grateful, not just for myself but for my family also.

Surviving Winter

Surviving Winter Appeal Dorset is part of a national campaign led by UK Community Foundations launched four years ago to raise awareness and funds in order to support the elderly and vulnerable during the cold winter months. The campaign offers an opportunity to people who receive, but do not need their Winter Fuel Allowance, to recycle it so it will help an elderly person in need.

Winter can be the silent killer for the elderly and vulnerable as many struggle to heat their homes – this in turn can exacerbate existing medical conditions. Over the last four years an average of 500 elderly people die every winter in Dorset.

Mrs Lyle has an existing lung condition and has been in and out of hospital for the last three years, she received a grant payment from DCF to help pay towards her gas and electricity bills throughout the winter. Upon receiving the help, she said;

"I am a people person and I love people so when I'm on my own it gets very lonely and I find it very difficult to manage. It sometimes felt like being sat in a prison because you are stuck in one room to keep warm. The Foundation enabled me to put my heating on and gave me the freedom to sleep in my own bed as opposed to the settee but most importantly you stopped me from having to go back into hospital and helped me live a life in the winter, so for that I want to thank you."

To make a donation please visit: www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org or send a cheque made payable to the Dorset Community Foundation and post to: The Surviving Winter Appeal, Dorset Community Foundation, Abchurch Chambers, 24 St Peter's Road, Bournemouth, BH1 2LN

Mrs Lyle, a grant recipient from the campaign.

“I realised what hypothermia was for the first time this year. The last two winters the cold has really hit me and I’ve had to go into hospital, the cold really weakens you. Receiving the winter fuel funding from Dorset Community Foundation helped give me peace of mind, security and stopped my family from worrying about me as I live on my own, but most importantly it stopped me from having to go back into hospital.”

The Dorset Fund

The Dorset Fund has been set up to provide county wide support around three main themes – Education, Art and Neighbourhood. The Foundation, through its Trustees and Ambassadors is trying to build up the Fund, so it can give out grants annually to groups and individuals around the three themes.

Each theme of the Dorset Fund has its own committee which is responsible for the development of the fund and choosing funding priorities.

Membership of the committees is drawn from a wide group of business, voluntary sector and statutory representatives from across the county.

The number of grants given will depend on individual and corporate donations that we are able to raise. For further details please visit our website www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org

> *If you do not have the capacity to set up your own named fund – donating or leaving a legacy to one of the themes of the Dorset Fund is the best way to make a difference to the local communities.*
>
> **Ashley Rowlands, Chair**

Arts

The Arts theme of the Dorset Fund seeks to support arts projects in all their forms throughout Dorset.
It will support individuals, community groups and voluntary organisations involved in Art, Music and Drama.

Neighbourhood

The Neighbourhood theme will support groups who are involved in any capacity with community development or action. It hopes to encourage a long lasting social impact within our communities.

It is looking to support and improve issues such as families with children under 18 years of age, public health, elderly, mental health, disability, conservation, sports/recreation and the environment.

Education

The Education theme has been set up to provide support to community based educational causes which benefit both children and adults in Dorset.

Grants will support education, learning and training activities for Dorset residents of all ages.

Working in Partnership

We have teamed up with Perrys Recycling to launch a charity paper bank scheme with the support and agreement from several of the local supermarkets throughout Dorset.

The scheme enables Dorset residents to give back to their community by recycling their old newspapers, magazines, junk mail and telephone books through one of their local Perrys Recycling paper banks. Perrys Recycling is providing and maintaining the paper banks across the county with £10 per tonne going to the Dorset Community Foundation.

Brian Perry, Chair of Perrys Recycling, has selected four different Community Foundations across the south west to become a part of the paper bank scheme initiative. He said; "We are delighted to start this new charity paper bank recycling initiative in Dorset and look forward to working together with local supermarkets and supporting Dorset Community Foundation and all the good causes across the county."

To find your nearest paper bank go to www.perrys-recycling.co.uk

10 ways to get involved

1 **Set up your own named fund**
It's a great way of ensuring the people you want to help are being helped.

2 **Leave a legacy**
There is no better way to continue supporting your community and make a lasting difference for years to come.

3 **Donate to an existing fund**
We have Foundation funds for Education, Arts, Neighbourhood and local communities. We are always looking for individual and corporate donations, so we can build up the funds and make a lasting community impact.

4 **Host an Event for us**
Bring together family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances to promote the work we and our supported groups undertake.

5 **Donations in kind**
If you have goods or services you would like to donate to the Foundation please get in touch.

6 **Become a Friend**
For only £1.25 a week you can become a grassroots supporter. Get in touch to request a leaflet.

7 **Volunteer**
We are a small team at the Foundation and are always grateful for an extra pair of hands! If you are willing to help, email foundationadmin@dorsetcf.org.

8 **Recycle unwanted paper**
The Foundation receives £10 for every tonne of paper donated through Perrys Recycling. Donate any unwanted paper to your local Perrys paper bank.

9 **Charity bake off**
You think that your Victoria Sponge cake can impress Mary Berry? Why not bake and invite friends around for a cake and coffee event to fundraise for the Foundation.

10 **Get social for us**
Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to keep up to date with what's going on in your community. If you like what you see – 'like', 'share' and 'retweet' it.

If you would like to get involved with the Foundation, please email us at foundationadmin@dorsetcf.org or contact us on 01202 292255

Dorset Community Foundation
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www.dorsetcommunityfoundation.org
Charity no: 1122113

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Quality accredited by UK Community Foundations to standards endorsed by the Charity Commission

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LOTTERY FUNDED